

a self-expandable stent having a collapsed delivery configuration in which the self-expandable stent is disposed between the inner sheath and the outer sheath; and

an imaging transducer coupled to a distal region of the delivery catheter,

wherein the outer sheath is adapted for removal from a portion of the inner sheath on which the stent is disposed, thereby causing the stent to self-expand to a deployed configuration.

49. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 wherein the inner sheath further comprises a section of reduced cross-section, wherein the self-expandable stent is configured to be disposed on the section of reduced cross-section in the collapsed delivery configuration.

50. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 further comprising a plurality of radiopaque markers disposed on the inner sheath, wherein the self-expandable stent is configured to be disposed between the radiopaque markers in the collapsed delivery configuration.

51. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 50 wherein the radiopaque markers are adapted to facilitate longitudinal positioning of the self-expandable stent at an implantation site.

52. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 wherein the imaging transducer is coupled to a distal region of the inner sheath.

53. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 wherein the imaging transducer is chosen from the group consisting of intravascular ultrasound transducers, forward-looking intravascular ultrasound transducers, radial-looking intravascular ultrasound transducers, and combinations thereof.

54. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 wherein the self-expandable stent comprises a curvature in the deployed configuration.

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55. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 54 wherein the imaging transducer is adapted to facilitate radial alignment of the curvature of the self-expandable stent with an internal curvature at an implantation site.

56. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 55 wherein the implantation site is situated within a patient's internal carotid artery.

57. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 54 wherein the curvature is chosen from the group consisting of custom-formed curvature, statically chosen

curvature, pre-manufactured curvature, and combinations thereof.

58. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 further comprising a fluoroscope in communication with the delivery catheter.

59. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 further comprising an imaging system coupled to the imaging transducer.

60. (New) The self-expandable stent delivery system of claim 48 wherein the inner sheath further comprises a guide wire lumen.

Respectfully submitted,



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